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February 24, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP (NFP) PROGRAM

On June 26, 2003, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky allocating an additional \$400,000 in CalWORKs Performance Incentive funds for FY 2002-03, for the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program for a total of \$1.3 million. The Board also requested the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), the New Directions Task Force and the Community Planning Group to prioritize funding for this program when the Long Term Family Self-Sufficiency (LTFSS) funding plan is reviewed in January 2003, and that no additional families be enrolled in the program until alternate funding is identified.

This is the fourth report on the implementation of this motion. Since my last report on January 2, 2003, the following actions have taken place:

- The program has ceased enrollment of new clients under this funding stream, but continues to provide services to the 263 LTFSS families who were previously enrolled. Current funding to serve these clients will extend through this month. Additional funding to sustain the program until the end of June 2003, is contingent on approval by the Board of the recommendations for funding that were made by the LTFSS delegate groups and submitted on February 20, 2003, for the March 4, 2003 Board meeting.
- DHS staff met with representatives from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Children and Family Services to investigate funding for NFP through these departments. Because each of those departments is experiencing their own fiscal and/or operational difficulties, neither of them was able to assist NFP at this time.

The Department continues to explore alternate strategies to fund program services by:

- Collaborating with Dr. David Olds to explore federal, State and other sources to establish a sustainable funding source.
- Collaborating with two hospitals in Los Angeles County to seek funding through the UniHealth Foundation.
- Finalizing data analysis to determine whether greater Medicaid funds can be gained through Targeted Case Management as compared to what the Department is currently receiving through the Maternal Child Health State allocation.
- Continuing to call foundations and other granting organizations to explore the potential for sustaining funding for the NFP.

The Department will continue to seek alternate funding sources and provide you with another update by March 28, 2003. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TG:jds
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c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director of Public Social Services
Director of Mental Health
Director of Children and Family Services